

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 3, 2003

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 1, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 22, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 7, 2003

SENATE BILL

No. 189

Introduced by Senator Escutia

(Coauthors: Senators Kuehl, Romero, Soto, and Vasconcellos)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chan, Dymally, Hancock,
Longville, Lowenthal, and Pavley)

February 12, 2003

An act to add Section 104324.25 to the Health and Safety Code,
relating to environmental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 189, as amended, Escutia. Environmental health tracking
system: chronic disease.

Existing law states the intent of the Legislature to establish the
Environmental Health Surveillance System (EHSS) for the purpose of
establishing ongoing surveillance of the environmental exposures and
diseases affecting Californians, with a focus on prevalence and
determinants of chronic diseases. Existing law requires the Division of
Environmental and Occupational Disease Control within the State
Department of Health Services, in consultation with the Office of
Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, to require, on or before July
1, 2002, a working group of technical experts, as specified, to develop
possible approaches to establishing the EHSS.

This bill would enact the California Health Tracking Act of 2003, and would require the State Department of Health Services, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the University of California to *jointly* develop and sign a memorandum of understanding ~~that states their intent~~ to assess the feasibility of integrating ~~their health surveillance systems and environmental hazards and exposures data for the purpose of establishing an environmental health tracking system~~ *existing environmental hazard, exposure, and health outcome data, and describing how the data correspond to specified recommendations of the working group*, on or before July 1, 2004. This bill would also require the ~~State Department of Health Services and the California Environmental Protection Agency to cooperate with the~~ California Environmental Health Tracking Program to obtain specified information. *The bill would authorize the California Environmental Health Tracking Program to collect any relevant information from state agencies, boards, departments, and offices.*

This bill would deem activities requested under the bill to be within the scope of existing federal contracts and funding.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
- 2 California Health Tracking Act of 2003.
- 3 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 4 following:
- 5 (a) Approximately 7 out of every 10 deaths in the United States
- 6 are attributable to chronic diseases. The national cost of chronic
- 7 diseases is \$325 billion in annual health care and lost productivity
- 8 costs, and this problem needs to be appropriately addressed.
- 9 (b) California follows this trend with an estimated \$75 billion
- 10 to \$90 billion spent annually for health care to treat people with
- 11 these chronic diseases.
- 12 (c) The rates of many chronic diseases, including asthma, some
- 13 birth defects, and cancers, are on the rise.
- 14 (d) We can and must do a better job of identifying the causes,
- 15 and preventing the burden, of these diseases.
- 16 (e) There is growing scientific evidence that environmental
- 17 factors are strongly linked to the incidence of certain chronic



1 diseases, and are even more strongly linked to these diseases than
2 is genetic predisposition.

3 (f) A gap in critical knowledge exists in understanding the
4 prevalence and incidence of chronic diseases and the
5 environmental factors that may relate to them.

6 (g) State- and community-level incidence data on chronic
7 diseases are needed to identify trends and patterns, and to improve
8 disease prevention efforts.

9 (h) The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
10 (CDC) has provided this state with funds for planning, evaluating,
11 training, tracking, and conducting a pilot demonstration to assist
12 with chronic disease and environmental exposure surveillance and
13 prevention efforts.

14 (i) In the 2002 fiscal year, Congress provided the CDC with
15 funding of \$17.5 million to begin developing a nationwide
16 environmental public health tracking network, and to develop
17 capacity for this network in environmental health sections within
18 state and local health departments.

19 (j) California received a three-year, \$2.2 million grant for the
20 University of California, and a separate three-year \$2.4 million
21 grant for the State Department of Health Services, to help establish
22 an environmental health tracking network.

23 (k) A statewide health tracking network, that integrates data
24 systems and collaborative programs and partnerships involving
25 environmental and public health professionals and agencies will
26 help target resources more efficiently to those areas most in need.

27 (l) In March 2001, the CDC released the first National Report
28 on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. This first
29 edition of the report presents 27 levels of environmental chemicals
30 measured in the United States population, including metals such
31 as lead, mercury, and uranium, cotinine, which is a marker of
32 tobacco smoke exposure, and organophosphate pesticide
33 metabolites, as well as phthalate metabolites.

34 (m) An increasing amount of research indicates that many of
35 the kinds of chemicals measured by the CDC can have an adverse
36 impact on human health.

37 (n) In January 2003, the CDC National Center for
38 Environmental Health issued the second National Report on
39 Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. The report
40 presents biomonitoring exposure data for 116 chemicals measured

1 in the United States population, including 89 additional
2 environmental chemicals, including polycyclic aromatic
3 hydrocarbons and various pesticides and herbicides, that were not
4 included in the first report.

5 (o) Senate Bill 702 (Chapter 538 of the Statutes of 2001) makes
6 California the first state in the nation to begin planning a statewide
7 environmental health surveillance system for chronic diseases and
8 environmental exposures, in order to monitor trends in health
9 conditions, such as asthma, learning disabilities, and neurological
10 disorders such as Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease, all
11 of which have suspected links to environmental exposures.

12 (p) This year the Senate Bill 702 expert working group will
13 make recommendations on how to develop an environmental
14 health surveillance system, the associated costs, and the health and
15 environmental measurements that would be used in the system.

16 (q) Currently, the state lacks critical knowledge about the
17 possible links between chronic diseases and chemicals that are
18 present in air, water, soil, dust, food, or other environmental
19 media. Without information obtained by tracking health and its
20 links to environmental factors, California will continue to fight
21 chronic disease with costly treatment, rather than with
22 cost-effective prevention.

23 SEC. 3. Section 104324.25 is added to the Health and Safety
24 Code, to read:

25 104324.25. (a) On or before July 1, 2004, the State
26 Department of Health Services, the California Environmental
27 Protection Agency, and the University of California shall *jointly*
28 develop and sign a memorandum of understanding ~~that states their~~
29 ~~intent to assess the feasibility of integrating their health~~
30 ~~surveillance systems and environmental hazards and exposures~~
31 ~~data for the purpose of establishing an environmental health~~
32 ~~tracking system.~~

33 ~~(b) The branches within the State Department of Health~~
34 ~~Services and the boards, departments, and offices of the California~~
35 ~~Environmental Protection Agency shall cooperate with the to~~
36 ~~assess the feasibility of both of the following:~~

37 (1) *Integrating existing environmental hazard, exposure, and*
38 *health outcome data.*

39 (2) *Describing how these data correspond to recommendations*
40 *in the final report of the expert working group established under*

1 *this chapter regarding the establishment of an environmental*
2 *health tracking system.*

3 (b) *The California Environmental Health Tracking Programs*
4 *Program in the Division of Environmental and Occupational*
5 *Disease Control of the department, to department shall obtain all*
6 *the following information:*

7 (1) *A description of the relevant laws, regulations, and policies*
8 *that authorize or mandate environmental hazard and disease*
9 *surveillance.*

10 (2) *A comprehensive description of their California's public*
11 *health surveillance and environmental hazard-and-exposure,*
12 *exposure, and health outcome monitoring information systems,*
13 *including, but not limited to, the purpose, scope, contents, and*
14 *capabilities of each system.*

15 (3) *A description of the current sources of financial support for*
16 *public health surveillance, environmental hazard-and-exposure,*
17 *exposure, and health outcome monitoring information systems,*
18 *and related funds.*

19 (c) *The California Environmental Health Tracking Program*
20 *may collect any relevant information, including information*
21 *related to other priority data systems identified by the working*
22 *group established under this chapter, from any state agency, board,*
23 *department, or office.*

24 (d) *The activities requested under subdivisions (a) and (b) are*
25 *within the scope of existing contracts and funding from the federal*
26 *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the State*
27 *Department of Health Services and the University of California,*
28 *and provided to support the planning and development of an*
29 *environmental health tracking system in California.*